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COMMUNIST CHINA
NATIONAL AFFAIRS
Sept. 22, 1958

PEOPLE'S COMMUNES PASS 10,000 MARK

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Peking, NCNA, in English Morse to Pyongyang, Sept. 21, 1958,
1300 GMT--W (UNCLASSIFIED)

(Text) Peking, Sept. 21--The mass movement for setting up people's communes is rapidly advancing in the rural areas throughout the country. Following Honan and Liaoning, which were the forerunners in the formation of people's communes, the peasants in Peking suburbs and in Hopei, Shansi, Tsinghai, Kwangsi, and Heilungkiang had all joined people's communes by about Sept. 10.

To date, 10,000 people's communes have been set up throughout the country. By the end of August, the figure was 8,694 which (several words indistinct) at that over 37 million households, or more than 30 percent of the total peasant (households in?) China. Eight of these are full county communes, and 11 counties where every peasant household is in a people's commune have set up countywide federations. Shantung, Kiangsi, and Shensi, where many of the regions and counties are completely organized into people's communes, are expecting the completion of the movement on a provincial scale. In Anhwei, Kiangsu, Chekiang, Fukien, Hupeh, Hunan, Kwangtung, Szechuan, Kweichow, Kansu, Kirin, and the Shanghai outskirts, the movement for setting up people's communes is gaining momentum. People's communes, numbering 100 or more, have been set up in each of these provinces. In multinational Inner Mongolia, Yunnan, Sinkiang, and Ninghsia, people's communes have been set up experimentally.

The speed and enthusiasm far exceeds that in the high tide of the agricultural cooperation movement in the winter of 1955.

The trail-blazers, like the Weihsing people's commune in Suiping, Honan Province, and the Tungfeng people's commune in Pihien, Szechuan, were established in April and May this year. Some of them were mergers of small cooperatives and transformed into people's communes later. The demand for bigger cooperatives was raised by peasants in most parts of the country in the summer this year, during the great leap forward in agriculture. Many peasants sharply felt the limitation of small cooperatives for the setting up of industry and the mechanization and electrification of agriculture.

Following the higher socialist awareness of the peasants, the setting up of schools and factories in the rural areas, and the fact that collective life could release more labor forces, the peasants found the need for people's communes which could embody industry, agriculture, commerce, education, and militia into one unit. Under the leadership of the Communist Party, in Honan, Kiangsu, and Chekiang, a movement for setting up of people's communes got underway in July this year.

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People's communes first came into being in large numbers in Hinyang region of Honan Province. In August, when peasants and village functionaries read of Chairman Mao's favorable comments about setting up people's communes, the movement began to take shape in the vast rural areas.

Many cooperatives, which long desired to form bigger organizations, began to establish people's communes in late August. The decision on the establishment of people's communes in the rural areas by the Central Committee of the Communist Party was issued to the local party organizations at the end of August and the Communist Party organizations at various levels strengthened the leadership in the work of forming people's communes. A great airing of views by the peasants has been going on and is continuing, leading to setting up united leading organs of the cooperatives as a stage in the transformation into people's communes. Simultaneously with developing production, the newly set up people's communes have formed various organizations, undertaken various management and administration tasks, and begun to deal with economic problems.

Every people's commune in Shansi has set up different contingents: The steel contingents are engaged in extracting and dressing of ores and iron smelting; the agriculture contingents are devoted to the management of the late autumn field work or deep plowing the land for the coming sowing season. Honan, after every peasant household joined in the people's communes, set up 350,000 small plants or workshops for power generation, iron and steel smelting, and machinery repairing, and thousands of red and expert universities and still greater numbers of middle and primary schools.

IUS Delegates Visit a Commune

Peking, NCNA, Radioteletype in English to West and North Europe, Sept. 19, 1958, 1823 GMT-W (UNCLASSIFIED)

(Text) Tientsin, Sept. 19--The participants in the recent International Union of Students' Congress yesterday visited the newly established people's commune of Hsinli village on the eastern outskirts of Tientsin. This commune was formed less than a month ago when 32 neighboring farm cooperatives combined to gain greater scope in the use of land and labor. It has 12,000 peasant households and 6,000 hectares of arable land. Such large communes are emerging everywhere in China.

The students examined an experimental rice field of one-fifteenth of a hectare which is expected to yield a harvest greater than any so far produced in the country. The rice stalks are growing to such a density that electric ventilators have been placed at one side of the field to provide the almost impenetrable mass with fresh air.

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The ears of rice are so heavy that wire and bamboo devices have been arranged to prevent them from falling. With great diligence and care, the peasants have plowed this field 1.3 meters deep and applied abundant manure and some phosphate and chemical fertilizer. They expect to gather the harvest just before National Day.

As delegates crossed from one rice field to another, observing the power-driven waterwheels irrigating the land, representatives of the commune explained that their 4,700 hectares of paddy would yield crops ranging from 7.5 tons to as much as 7.75 tons per hectare. Before liberation, this village never harvested more than 2.3 tons per hectare.

It was noticeable that many villagers wore badges with the words "Ready for Service--Producer and Fighter." They were members of the militia who were at the same time workers, peasants, traders, or students. The commune will become the primary unit of society responsible for agriculture, industry, trade, education, and military affairs.

Some of the guests admired the kindergarten where about 100 infants were playing hide-and-seek under the care of nurses. The children spend the entire day here and are led home toward evening, when the parents are free. Besides kindergartens, the commune has set up nurseries, a general hospital and a maternity hospital. Homes already have been built for the aged, where they live in quiet and security.

One group of delegates dropped in at a cottage by the road and noticed two bicycles which they found belonged to the couple who lived there. Two literacy certificates hung on the wall. The husband and wife had gained them at one of the 74 schools opened by the commune. "Everyone of us can read and write now," the wife said. The commune also had libraries and clubs and was going to build new houses in the coming three years to replace all the present ones, the commune representative explained.

The housewife told the visitors that her family which included six children, all ate in the public canteens. In fact, one reason for the popularity of the commune was that it relieved women of much household work and collective life permitted better work, study, and enjoyment of cultural facilities.

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Chatting with half a dozen red-scarfed schoolboys, one visitor learned that they studied for five hours in the mornings and worked in the afternoons at a small paper mill. There are 1,000 such small industrial enterprises in the communes and plans were being made to add another 1,000 before the end of 1961.

On leaving the Haili village commune, the Albanian visitor wrote in the visitors' album: "Not the most famous scientist can fully study the life of the people." A Pakistan student wrote: "We were deeply impressed by the wonderful experience of the commune. We hope our country will take an example from the people of China."

FARM TOOLS EXHIBITION--China's first national exhibition of farm implements closed Sept. 20. The exhibition was seen by 350,000 visitors during four and a half months; 45,000 were from other parts of the country--directors, model peasants, and handicraftsmen of agricultural cooperatives and handicraft cooperatives. Visitors worked out 20,000 copies of designs of the farm tools suitable to local conditions in their areas, and many small models. The exhibition also presented copies of about 300 implements selected from the exhibits to all the provinces, cities, and autonomous regions and provided leaflets containing the technical data. (Peking, NCNA, Radiotextype in English, Sept. 20, 1958, 1855 GMT--W) (UNCLASSIFIED)

PRINTING NETWORK--A nationwide network for the printing of newspapers, books, and magazines will be built up in three years, according to a plan mapped out at a national conference on this question recently held in Peking. The conference stressed the need for more attention to setting up local medium-sized and small printing presses. Speaking at the conference, Liu Chih-ting, Vice Minister of Culture, said that the work of printing newspapers, books, and magazines in the past nine years had been on the whole satisfactory. In particular, since the big forward step many important new achievements had been made. (Text) (Peking, NCNA, Radiotextype in English, Sept. 19, 1958, 1900 GMT--W) (UNCLASSIFIED)

GLIDING AND PARACHUTING CONTEST--China's first gliding and parachuting contest opened here today. The 140 competitors from 10 provinces and cities are all amateurs. Following the opening ceremony there was an air show during which many feats of gliding and soaring were presented. A 20-year-old girl performed feats of diving and spiraling. The highlight of the day was parachuting from 1,500 meters and from 2,500. (Text) (Peking, NCNA, Radiotextype in English, Sept. 17, 1958, 1900 GMT--W) (UNCLASSIFIED)